

Washington Massage

NEWS



Wash. Chapter, American Association Masseurs & Masseuses

John Murray, Editor

March Issue

Port Townsend, Washington

Page 1

Extra News Release

As we were just going to press, I had a telephone communication from Legislative Chairman, Arthur Dunbar, he says that he has no definite date as yet from Mr. Tom Carter of the State Board of Licenses, when he has a positive date, we will arrange a definite time and place for him to meet with us, that we may all have a chance to learn first hand, just what liberties we have as massage therapists.

Every member will be notified by post card, as far in advance of the meetings as possible. We need a one hundred per cent representation of the entire membership.

Editor

Let Us Take Inventory

This article is not intended for public scrutiny. It is a confidential message to members only, and to those non-members who may be undecided about joining or rejoining our organization.

Holding office in an organization is never easy, seldom pleasant and often discouraging and frustrating. Many of us hold office in a number of organizations during our active years. I have always been very glad to reach the end of my term and be replaced by someone else. The responsibilities usually far outweigh the pleasure.

Since June, 1956, I have held office continually, in our Washington Chapter A.M.T.A. Several other members have done likewise. Our by-laws forbid my re-election to my present office. I have worked and worried with the finest set of officers, directors and committee members, and rank and file members, that I have ever known. We have an efficient and smoothly operating chapter. We have not succeeded in having a licensing law enacted which would legalize all the techniques and modalities we might desire to use, but we have defended ourselves against unfair restrictions by other professional groups. However, our progress has been hampered and retarded because of our small membership and consequent lack of political power and prestige.

I often wonder why our organization, both state and national, doesn't grow and flourish as it should. Instead, many members have dropped out, especially since the dues were increased. It is no comfort to Washington Chapter members to know that other states chapters are having difficulties similar to ours. It should be of great and serious concern to all of us.

What is the reason for our decline here in our own state? Do the members, and especially those who have left our chapter, feel that an organization is unnecessary or undesirable? Do they believe we massage therapists are secure and will not be molested here in Washington or elsewhere? Certainly the small membership would indicate such a false sense of security. Here are reports given by various states, which I copied from the minutes of the last National Convention of A. M. T. A.



NEWS

not registered
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Page 2

"Mrs. Ann White reported from Massachusetts. They have 25 members at present. Good publicity."

Blondie Jones reported from Pennsylvania that they have 9 members and at some meetings have as high as 40 guests and have 6 meetings per year. (Forty guests but 9 members).

Mr. Tyler reported from Oregon. "The chapter has 18 members and is in good financial standings."

John Persona reported for Wisconsin. "They have 15 members at present and intend to hold lectures at different times and invite the public."

The above reports are not any more reassuring than our own report. All of them indicate too little interest in their own welfare by those who practice Massage Therapy. Not all state chapters are in this category, however, I believe California and Indiana have taken the lead in membership and activity. I quote again, "Lowell Spangle reported from Indiana. They have 65 members and 2 honorary members. They have 6 business meetings each year with a seminar after each meeting. They meet with lots of the state Legislators and make many friends among them and received very good comment on their bill and will introduce the bill at the next Legislative Assembly." (Wash. Chapter once had about 65 members.)

If there is any doubt in the minds of Massage Therapists that we need the A.M.T.A. perhaps the following reports will convince them that our competitors and our enemies are active at every Legislative session. Our state of Washington may be next. I quote again, "Montana's President, Mr. L. S. Hanson of the newest state chapter told about the last bill that was introduced in Montana's Legislature, that would have eliminated all the Massage Therapists and others besides. They worked hard to get this bill defeated."

"Mrs. Mildred Hanson reported for Iowa. They were able to kill the bill that would have eliminated the Massage Therapists and are trying to raise more money for their next Legislative try."

Dr. Brooks, Illinois, stated that all members donated \$5 each for the Legislative fund and when a member could not attend a meeting they donated a \$1 bill which also went into the Legislative fund."

Michigan reported that they also are trying to get a massage bill through. At the last Legislative session a bill came up that was very much against the massage profession but they were able to defeat it.

John Persona of Wisconsin reported that their Massage act was thrown out and massage therapists are now under the Physical Therapy act. They operate under the grandfather clause of that act, passed before 1953, and there are no new massage therapists in Wisconsin in the last 6 years. (This was done in order to destroy massage therapy in that state) No massage therapist can now become licensed or registered under the physical therapy law. It only applies to those who were practicing when the law was enacted in 1953.

Washington Chapter is following a policy of making and keeping friends in our state Senate who will block any bad bill that may be introduced by others.

Page 3

That is our only hope of survival when the shutdown comes. We are also making every effort to guarantee that existing laws are not used to deny us our right to use all methods that have always been a part of massage therapy. We must also defend ourselves against organizations that try to undermine us and use us for their own benefit and our detriment. We can continue doing those things only as long as we are strong and prosperous enough. We cannot do so while our members keep dropping by the wayside. We must have a larger and larger membership, not merely a skeleton organization. Everyone of us must face facts. Every member must serve as an organizer in his or her own community or town. We have no paid organizers. Tell non-members about the attempts to legislate our profession out of existence in other states, and ask them to join us for their protection as well as our own. I believe Spokane chapter will soon report some new members. I hope the rest of the Washington communities can do likewise.

I am no longer a youngster and several other therapists are not youngsters. I have now reached the seventh stage of ambition outlined in this letter I received from an insurance agent. 1. To be like Dad. 2. To be a railroad engineer. 3. To pilot an airplane. 4. To be famous. 5. To become a millionaire. 6. To make both ends meet. 7. To hang on long enough to draw a pension.

Pete I. Eitrein, Pres. Wash. Chapter

6 -----

Seattle Chapter President Arthur Dunbar, gives us this bit of humor. As it happens in his every day life, Arthur always manages to see the bright side of every situation. Here it is. There is now a lady working here in our office who is a graduate of the famous old school of Swedish massage in Stockholm, Sweden. She tells one that while working in the employ of a doctor in Sweden he told her to rest at least ten minutes between each treatment. He said that giving a massage treatment took a lot out of the therapist and they needed to recuperate between treatments, that failing to do so is hard on the heart. Well, that may be true, but swinging an axe and waving a hoe took a lot out of this country boy too.

A few days ago I was treating a very interesting Chinese gentleman. He told me that he had used massage therapy a great deal in China for his health. He thought my methods compared very favorably to what he had gotten at home.

He told me that he ^{had} been in the intelligence department of the Chinese army when the Japanese attacked. I asked him if he had been wounded, he said, "No." that when the Japanese captured a village where he was stationed, he was already gone, two weeks ago. Now that is the kind of an army I would like to be in, that is the way I would get my medals.

Fraternally,

Arthur Dunbar

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Page 4

Quick Quote: A little girl described her appendectomy this way. "They told me it wouldn't hurt and they stuck a needle in me and I just disappeared."

Joyce Benson

Characteristics of an Ethical Massage Therapists

An ethical massage therapist may be differentiated from a quack by certain well established characteristics. An ethical massage therapist does not advertise his methods or cures in a newspaper. He does not give out circulars concerning his work or his fees. He does not indiscriminately distribute his picture. He does not put large signs on his windows or outside his office advertising his extraordinary merits, or otherwise promoting his wares. A competent massage therapist seldom finds it necessary to travel from town to town to secure patients. He usually has an established place of residence and of work to which they send requesting his attendance when they themselves are unable to travel. An ethical massage therapist does not become a member ~~from~~ of a labor union for bargaining or protection. He will refrain from any form of racketeering. An massage therapist who fails to come under the above category is not to be consulted or to be considered as safe and competent.

Editor

Sinking fund - Your checking account toward the end of the month.

James Holding, Wall Street Journal

For Sale

A good going massage therapist business in the Seattle area, about April first. The owner's returning to the mid-west. The business has been in operation for about ten years. The competition is very light in this particular area of town. There is room for two therapists and living quarters. If anyone knows of an interested party have them write in care of this paper or Arthur Dunbar, 13229 2nd Ave. North West, C/O D.W. Carter, Seattle 77, Wash.

Fathers in Waiting

In an endeavor to "starch-up" the most woebegone of specimens, expectant fathers, a Washington hospital has provided an album called "Comments by Fathers in Waiting," for them to pen their reeling thoughts.

"Been waiting for six hours, it must be a woman."

Page 15

2. "Can't go fishing with an 8 pound, 8 ounce girl. I shall return."
3. "A boy. No. Three. That makes three Jacks and one Queen but it is a full house for me."
4. "My first tax exemption."
5. "Another girl. That makes 4 women under one roof. Hush."
6. "And finally. Thank God."

Irish Digest.

Dear friend John,

There is a subject pertaining to legislation on which I feel I should like to say a few words, that of the subject of sanitation, and all that goes with it toward keeping our places and the things with which we use to treat people above reproach.

The subject was brought sharply to mind this last week when a lady whom I had sent to another of the natural healing sciences returned to me to complain of the lack of cleanliness in the treatment room of that man. She rather felt that I had not properly cared for her best interests in sending her to someone who was so careless about sanitation.

The sheet she was expected to lie on for an examination had been used before and as she expressed it "several times since it's last trip through the laundry." Other things about his treatment room seemed likewise neglected and some were in poor repair which added to her displeasure and discomfort.

The whole thing brings back to me an experience with a doctor who paid me a visit to look over my place before referring his clientele to me for care. He had had my experience. He had sent patients to massage therapists and had them return to him to complain of being sent to places and practitioners who were untidy.

This subject will and has come up during discussions about our bills in legislature. When and if we get a bill through the legislature we will be inspected for these things as well as others and it should be of concern to all of us - that none of us are ever closed because of not being careful about this most important matter.

sincerely, Arthur Dunbar